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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 [[6]], wherein said informing is performed automatically by a server, said first and second users being informed of pages retrieved by one another.

8. (Currently amended) A Web-based collaborative research method, comprising:
determining coordinates for pages which are retrieved by a first user and mapping the
coordinates into a space; and
based on said coordinates of said pages, informing a second user of a closeness of a
research by said first user.

~~The method of claim 6,~~

wherein an intersection of research by said first and second users is graphically displayed to said first and second users.

9-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 25 ~~23~~, wherein said notifier resides in a server, said first and second users being informed of pages retrieved by one another.

25. (Currently amended) A Web-based collaborative research system, comprising:

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a unit for determining coordinates for pages which are retrieved by a first user and mapping the coordinates into a space;

a notifier for informing, based on said coordinates of said pages, a second user of a closeness of a research by said first user; and

~~The system of claim 23, further comprising:~~

a display for graphically displaying to said first and second users an intersection of research by said first and second users.

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 23, further comprising:

a unit for providing the first user with a trail of research of said second user.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said trail of research comprises a predetermined sequence of bookmarks leading said first user to a specific point in cyberspace.

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 23, wherein, on a user side, said system further comprises:

a log-in unit for enabling said user to log-in to a collaborative research portal; and
a selector for selecting an existing research session, or creating a new research session.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein, on said user side, said system further comprises:

a retrieval unit for retrieving a first data block;

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a receiving unit for receiving data blocks of other users having a predetermined closeness, and an index of other data blocks relevant to the user's research.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein, on a server side, said system further comprises:

a transmission unit for sending to the user a list of previously created research sessions;
and

after the retrieving by the user, an adder for adding spatial coordinates of the first data block to a collection of vertices to a current research session.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein, on said server side, said system further comprises:

a calculator for recalculating areas occupied by the vertices of the current research session, and for calculating an intersection of the current research session with research sessions created by other users.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein, on said server side, said system further comprises:

a determining unit for determining whether any research sessions intersect; and
a notifier for notifying, if any research sessions intersect, users that created the intersecting sessions.

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33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 32, wherein, on said server side, said system further comprises:

means for ~~sending unit for~~ sending the users of the intersecting sessions a geometry of the other intersecting sessions.

34-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of recordable, machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a Web-based collaborative research method, comprising:

determining coordinates for pages which are retrieved by a first user and mapping the coordinates into a space; and

based on said coordinates of said pages, informing a second user of a closeness of a research by said first user,

wherein an intersection of research by said first and second users is graphically displayed to said first and second users.

37. (Withdrawn) A Web-based collaborative research method, comprising:

determining coordinates for pages which are retrieved by research performed by a first user;

mapping the determined coordinates into a space; and

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determining a closeness of said research being performed by said first user to research being performed by a second user based on said determined coordinates of said pages which are retrieved by said first user,

selectively notifying said second user of said closeness of said research being performed by said first user based on said determined coordinates of said pages which are retrieved by said first user.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein said closeness is determined based on the Euclidean distance of two points in n-dimensional space given by:

$$D(P1, P2) = \sqrt{S_D (P1_D - P2_D)^2}.$$

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

notifying said first user and said second user when said research being performed by said first user, based on said determined coordinates of said pages which are retrieved by said first user, intersects with said research being performed by said second user.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, graphically displaying an intersection of said research by said first user and said research by said second user to at least one of said first user and said second user.

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41. (Withdrawn) A Web-based collaborative research method, comprising:

determining a first set of coordinates for pages which are retrieved by research performed by a first user and mapping said determined first set of coordinates into a space; and

determining a second set of coordinates for pages which are retrieved by research performed by a second user and mapping said determined second set of coordinates into said space; and

correlating said research of said first user with said research of said second user based on said first set of determined coordinates and said second set of determined coordinates; and

selectively notifying at least one of said first user and said second user of a correlation between said research of said first user and said research of said second user.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein said correlating comprises:

determining a related topic that said first user has at least one of previously researched and currently is researching.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein said correlating comprises:

determining a related topic between said research of said first user and said research of said second user based on said first set of determined coordinates and said second set of determined coordinates.

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44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein said correlating comprises:
determining a closeness of said research being performed by said first user to research
being performed by a second user based on said first set of determined coordinates and said
second set of determined coordinates.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein said closeness is determined by the
Euclidean distance of two points in n-dimensional space given by:

$$D(P1, P2) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (P1_i - P2_i)^2}.$$

46. (Withdrawn) A Web-based collaborative research system, comprising:
a first determining unit that determines coordinates for pages which are retrieved by
research performed by a first user;
a mapping unit that maps the determined coordinates into a space; and
a second determining unit that determines a closeness of said research being performed
by said first user to research being performed by a second user based on said determined
coordinates of said pages which are retrieved by said research of said first user; and
a notifying unit that selectively notifies said second user of said closeness of said research
being performed by said first user based on said determined coordinates of said pages which are
retrieved by said first user.

47. (Withdrawn) A Web-based collaborative research system, comprising:
first means for determining coordinates for pages which are retrieved by research
performed by a first user;

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means for mapping the determined coordinates into a space; and

second means for determining a closeness of said research being performed by said first user to research being performed by a second user based on said determined coordinates of said pages which are retrieved by said research of said first user; and

means for selectively notifying said second user of said closeness of said research being performed by said first user based on said determined coordinates of said pages which are retrieved by said first user.